



# Higher Classical Studies — draft Course rationale and summary

May 2011



This edition: May 2011, draft version 1.0

Published by the Scottish Qualifications Authority  
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# Course rationale

## Background

All new and revised National Courses reflect Curriculum for Excellence values, purposes and principles. They offer flexibility, provide more time for learning, more focus on skills and applying learning, and scope for personalisation and choice.

In this Course, and its component Units, there will be an emphasis on skills development and the application of those skills. Assessment approaches will be proportionate, fit for purpose and will promote best practice, enabling learners to achieve the highest standards they can.

This Course provides learners with opportunities to continue to acquire and develop the attributes and capabilities of the four capacities as well as skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work.

All Courses provide opportunities for learners to develop breadth, challenge and application, but the focus and balance of the assessment will be appropriate for the subject area.

## **Relationship between the Course and Curriculum for Excellence values, purposes and principles**

The Classical Studies Course builds upon the social studies principles and practice paper and will be developed primarily from the social studies curriculum area, but will also draw from classical languages, Literacy, English and expressive arts.

This Course will encourage learners to develop important attitudes, including: an open mind and respect for the values, beliefs and cultures of others; openness to new thinking and ideas; a sense of responsibility; and global citizenship.

Classical Studies contributes to learners' understanding of the society in which they live and work by helping them to develop an understanding of classical societies and how the issues of the classical world remain relevant to an understanding of modern society. This will, in turn, assist them in functioning as effective contributors to society and responsible citizens, as well as giving them more individual confidence in their learning and working lives.

There is no requirement to study the Greek or Latin languages.

Classical Studies encourages learners to develop the attributes and capabilities of the four capacities in many respects. For example, learners' horizons are extended and they are challenged to look at the world in new ways. They begin to understand more about their sense of identity and place in the modern world by building up a framework of religious, political, social, moral and cultural knowledge and understanding. The investigative, creative and critical thinking activities in this Course give learners important experience in contributing to group work and also working on their own.

Comparing and contrasting the classical and contemporary worlds will develop thinking skills and learners will progressively develop skills in literacy. Through the skills and content of the Classical Studies Course, learners will be encouraged to reflect upon their own health and wellbeing.

## **Purpose and aims of the Course**

Classical Studies opens up the world of classical society for learners. The purpose of this Course is to develop the learner's knowledge and understanding of the classical Greek and Roman civilisations by comparing and contrasting these societies with the modern world. This will be achieved through successful study of the Course Units: *Life in Classical Greece*; *Classical Literature*; and *Life in the Roman World*. The Course will develop investigating, analysing and evaluating skills to help learners to understand, explain and link the classical and modern worlds.

Classical Studies will help create informed and active citizens by developing a greater understanding for learners of the classical Greek and Roman worlds. Classical Studies makes a distinctive contribution to the curriculum through its study of the religious, political, social, moral and cultural values and practices of classical Greek and Roman societies. It therefore explores the breadth of human relationships within these societies, increasing the learner's understanding of how these worlds continue to have an impact on our life today.

The main aims of Classical Studies are to enable learners to gain:

- ◆ knowledge and understanding of public and private religious ideas and practices and the interaction between religion, personal morality and identity in classical societies
- ◆ knowledge and understanding of the political and social structures of classical societies
- ◆ an awareness of universal human themes, issues and values raised by classical texts

Learners will develop skills which are transferable to other areas of study and which they will use in everyday life.

## **Information about typical learners who might do the Course**

The Classical Studies Course is appropriate for a wide range of learners, from those who wish to achieve a greater understanding of the classical world and its relevance to contemporary society, to learners who wish to progress to more specialised training or further education or employment.

Entry to this Course is at the discretion of the centre. However, it may be beneficial for a potential learner to have the skills and knowledge required by one or more of the following:

- ◆ Classical Studies (National 5) or relevant component Units or another social subject
- ◆ equivalent qualifications

All Courses in this suite will take account of the needs of all learners and provide sufficient flexibility to enable learners to achieve in different ways and at a different pace.

Through the successful completion of the Classical Studies Course, important skills for learning, life and work are developed. These skills include: researching and investigating classical issues; synthesising information from a wide range of sources to produce detailed and reasoned lines of argument; understanding, using and evaluating a wide range of information and evidence; understanding and analysing classical literature; comparing and contrasting the classical and

*successful learner, confident individual, responsible citizen, effective contributor*

modern worlds; and communicating balanced views, opinions and conclusions based on evidence.

Classical Studies Units and Courses are offered from SCQF level 3 to SCQF level 7. Vertical progression is possible through the levels of Classical Studies qualifications and lateral progression is possible to other qualifications in the social studies suite of Courses.

Higher Classical Studies provides an access qualification to further and higher education as well as a diverse range of occupations and careers.

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# Course summary

**Course title: Higher Classical Studies**

**SCQF level 6 (24 SCQF credit points)**

## Course outline

### Mandatory Units

Life in Classical Greece (Higher)	(6 SCQF credit points)
Classical Literature (Higher)	(6 SCQF credit points)
Life in the Roman World (Higher)	(6 SCQF credit points)

### Course assessment

(6 SCQF credit points)

This Course includes six SCQF credit points for 40 additional programmed hours to allow preparation for Course assessment. The Course assessment covers the added value of the Course. Further information on the Course assessment is provided in the Assessment section.

## **Course structure and conditions of award**

The Classical Studies Course develops a range of cognitive skills. It encourages active learning in the process of acquiring and applying relevant knowledge. Learners will develop investigating, analysing and evaluating skills in order to explain and understand the classical and modern world.

This Course has three mandatory Units. Within each Unit there is a considerable degree of flexibility in themes which can be studied to allow personalisation and choice.

By undertaking this Course, learners will develop a wide range of important and transferable skills, including researching and investigating classical issues; understanding, using and evaluating a wide range of information and evidence; synthesising information from a wide range of sources to produce detailed and reasoned lines of argument; understanding and analysing classical literature; comparing and contrasting the classical and modern worlds; and communicating balanced views, opinions and conclusions based on evidence.

The skills listed above will be developed and applied over a range of multidisciplinary contexts in the following Units. Each Unit also offers opportunities for learners to focus on particular skills.

Units are statements of standards for assessment and not programmes of learning and teaching. They can be delivered in a variety of ways.

### **Life in Classical Greece (Higher)**

In this Unit, learners will develop techniques to evaluate the value and reliability of a wide range of information and evidence from classical Greek society. Learners will develop knowledge and understanding of 5th century BCE Athens by selecting from a range of topics such as politics, society, religion and morality.

### **Classical Literature (Higher)**

In this Unit, learners will develop techniques to study classical literature in poetic, prose or dramatic form. Through this study learners will gain knowledge and understanding of the universal human themes and values raised by classical texts which link the classical and modern worlds. This Unit will focus on techniques to structure and sustain lines of reasoned argument which reflect the complexity of the issues being addressed.

### **Life in the Roman World (Higher)**

In this Unit, learners will develop techniques to interpret a wide range of sources, including archaeological evidence, and will present balanced conclusions based on evidence. Learners will develop knowledge and understanding of Rome in the 1st century BCE and the 1st century CE by selecting from a range of topics such as politics, society, religion and morality.

To gain the award of the Course, the learner must pass all the Units as well as the Course assessment. The required Units are shown in the Course outline section. Course assessment will provide the basis for grading attainment in the Course award.

## Assessment

Information about assessment standards for the Course will be included in the *Course Assessment Specification* which will provide full details including advice on how a learner's overall attainment for the Course will be determined.

### Unit assessment

All Units are internally assessed against the requirements shown in Unit specifications.

They will be assessed pass/fail within centres.

SQA will provide rigorous external quality assurance, including external verification, to ensure assessment judgements are consistent and meet national standards.

Exemplification of possible assessment approaches for these Units will be provided in the *National Assessment Resource*.

### Course assessment

Courses from National 4 to Advanced Higher include assessment of [added value](#)<sup>1</sup>. At National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher, the added value will be assessed in the Course assessment. The added value for the Course must address the key purposes and aims of the Course as defined in the Course Rationale. It will do this by addressing one or more of breadth, challenge and application.

In the Higher Classical Studies Course, added value will focus on:

- ◆ breadth
- ◆ challenge
- ◆ application

Learners will draw on, extend and apply the knowledge and skills they have learned during the Course. This will be assessed through a combination of a [question paper](#)<sup>2</sup> and a [project](#)<sup>3</sup>. The question paper will require demonstration of a breadth of knowledge, understanding and skills accumulated from across the Course. The project will require learners to extend and apply their knowledge and skills and will be sufficiently open and flexible to allow for personalisation and choice.

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<sup>1</sup> Definitions can be found here: [www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45528.html](http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45528.html)

<sup>2</sup> See link above for definition.

<sup>3</sup> See link above for definition.